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June 13, 2002

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Re: U.S. Application No. 09/198,779
Filed: November 24, 1998
Title: Nucleic Acid Molecules Associated with the
Methionine Degradation Pathway
Inventors: BLEDIG *et al.*
Atty. Docket: 16517.214

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Sir:

The following documents are forwarded herewith for appropriate action by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (PTO):

1. a Responsive Amendment in response to the Office Action mailed March 13, 2002; and
2. a return postcard.

Please stamp the attached postcard with the filing date of these documents and return it to our courier.

Applicants do not believe that any fees are due in conjunction with this filing. If, however, any fees are due in conjunction with this filing, including any extension of time fees required to prevent abandonment, then such extension is hereby petitioned and the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fees to Arnold & Porter Deposit Account No. 50-1824 referencing docket number 16517.214. A duplicate copy of this letter is enclosed.

Very truly yours,

David R. Marsh (Reg. No. 41,408)
Milan M. Vinnola (Reg. No. 45,979)

Enclosures